

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-09 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 IO-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T STATE 220272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF A PAPER DESCRIBING NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN YOUR COUNTRY AS IT RELATES TO UNITED STATES DRUG SCENE. TREAT THIS AS SECRET-NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. THIS IS AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEWS. ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ARISING FROM MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THIS PAPER SHOULD BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY CABLE. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AT MEXICO CITY REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS THIS ASSESSMENT PAPER WITH WASHINGTON REPS THERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: MEXICO CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, AND TRANSHIPMENT CENTERS OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS ENTERING THE U.S.

OPIUM POPPIES ARE ILLEGALLY GROWN IN THOUSANDS OF CLANDES-  
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TINE FIELDS IN AT LEAST 10 OF THE 29 STATES. TWO CROPS ARE HARVESTED A YEAR - ONE IN MAY, THE SECOND IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. MARIJUANA IS ALSO GROWN AND HARVESTED IN HUGE QUANTITIES.

HEROIN PRODUCING LABORATORIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN 13 STATES. A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF THEM ARE BELIEVED TO BE

LOCATED IN AND AROUND CULIACAN, SINALOA, THE HEROIN CENTER OF MEXICO. THE LABS REQUIRE LITTLE SPACE -- OFTEN A KITCHEN OR A HOME SUFFICES -- AND THEY CAN BE HIDDEN IN THE MOUNTAINS OR IN CITIES THEMSELVES.

TRAFFICKING FROM AND THROUGH MEXICO IS HEAVY. AN ESTIMATED 60 PERCENT OF ALL HEROIN ENTERING THE US ANNUALLY IS EITHER PRODUCED IN OR TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH MEXICO. COCAINE, THOUGH NOT GROWN OR PROCESSED IN MEXICO, IS TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH THE COUNTRY EN ROUTE TO THE US IN ABUNDANT QUANTITIES. HUNDREDS OF NETWORKS AND GANGS ARE INVOLVED, AS ARE HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF THEM AMERICAN TOURISTS SEEKING TO MAKE A QUICK BUT RISKY PROFIT. SOME TRAFFICKERS USE NARCOTICS AS BARTER FOR GUNS FROM AMERICAN BUYERS.

PROBLEM: CORRUPTION MAY BE THE SINGLE MOST INHIBITORY FACTOR IN THE ENTIRE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. IT IS KNOWN TO EXIST AT HIGH LEVELS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICE ORGANIZATIONS. OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IS SO PERVERSIVE THAT PRACTICALLY NO AREA WHERE NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING HAVE ESTABLISHED A STRONGHOLD IS IMMUNE TO GRAFT.

ALTHOUGH STATISTICS INDICATE THAT MEXICAN ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS HAVE IMPROVE IN TERMS OF RESOURCES, ARRESTS, AND SEIZURES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES REMAIN LESS THAN FULLY CAPABLE OF COPING WITH THE PROBLEM. THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE NUMBER ONLY SOME 330-350 AND THEY MUST ENFORCE ALL FEDERAL LAWS. THEY REMAIN UNDERPAID, ILL-TRAINED, WITHOUT LONG-TERM CAREER STATUS, AND ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BRIBERY. THE USE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARMY TROOPS HAS INCREASED BUT THEY ARE STILL TOO ILL-EQUIPPED, OVER-  
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WORKED, AND POORLY FUNDED TO BE EXPECTED TO DEFEAT THE PROBLEM. THE ARMY'S MAIN ROLE IN MAINTAINING STABILITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DETRACTS SOMEWHAT FROM ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

OTHER PROBLEMS ARE MEXICO'S SIZE, RUGGED TERRAIN, AND LONG BORDER WITH THE US, AND THE EMPHASIS MANY OFFICIALS PUT

ON ERADICATING MARIJUANA, MANY TIMES TO THE DETRIMENT OF  
OPIUM POPPY CROP DESTRUCTION AND INTERDICTION.

ASSESSMENT: US ASSISTANCE TO MEXICAN ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCIES IN THE FORM OF HELICOPTERS, TECHNICAL AIDS, AND  
EQUIPMENT MAY HELP IN LOCATING AND DESTROYING NARCOTICS  
CULTIVATION. EVEN SO, CORRUPTION, INADEQUATE POLICE WORK,  
AND INABILITY TO PLAN OR DIRECT THE ERADICATION EFFORT

WILL REMAIN PROBLEMS. MEXICO WILL REMAIN A TEMPTING  
COUNTRY FOR TRAFFICKERS TO OPERATE IN AND THERE IS LITTLE  
REASON WHY THEY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO INCREASE THEIR  
ACTIVITIES AND CAPABILITIES IN THE FUTURE. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 OCT 1974  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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